



# U.S. House of Representatives

## Committee on the Judiciary

### F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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#### *News Advisory*

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## Immigration Subcommittee Oversight Hearing Thursday on Citizenship and How It is Affected by Dual Citizenship and Birthright Citizenship

**What:** Oversight Hearing entitled, “Dual Citizenship, Birthright Citizenship, and the Meaning of Sovereignty”

**Who:** Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims – Rep. John N. Hostettler (R-Ind.), Chairman

**When:** 2:00 p.m., Thursday, September 29, 2005

**Where:** 2141 Rayburn Building

*Nationality and citizenship define an individual's membership to a political community, and confer a significant set of privileges and civic responsibilities. U.S. citizenship allows an individual to carry an American passport, vote, run for office, be employed, and gain numerous other benefits. Each nation defines the rules of nationality or citizenship for itself. In the U.S., an individual can acquire citizenship by birth or through naturalization.*

#### **BACKGROUND...**

- ✓ The U.S. is one of the few industrialized countries that still grants automatic or “birthright” citizenship to children of illegal aliens and to those without a clear allegiance to the U.S.
- ✓ The case of Yaser Esam Hamdi raises concerns about conferring birthright citizenship to individuals with few ties to the U.S. Hamdi was born in the U.S. to Saudi national parents working on temporary visas and returned to Saudi Arabia with his parents while still a small child. He was captured in Afghanistan fighting for the Taliban and as a result of being conferred automatic citizenship at his birth, he was entitled to rights not ordinarily available to foreign enemy combatants
- ✓ Naturalized U.S. citizens take an oath to renounce allegiance to other nations and sovereignties, yet some consider retention of citizenship in that former country as a violation of the oath.

#### **THIS HEARING WILL...**

- ⇒ Examine the subjects of so-called “birthright citizenship” and dual citizenship as it relates to persons in the United States, and its long-term effects generally on our sovereignty and well-being as a nation.

**WITNESSES:** Dr. Stanley Renshon, City University of New York Graduate Center; Dr. John Fonte, The Hudson Institute; Dr. John Eastman, Chapman University School of Law; and Mr. Peter Spiro, University of Georgia School of Law.

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